

**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE  
OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**



**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

**Enclosed are clippings of local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Outreach and Public Affairs Office**

**as at:**

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Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
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Awoko

Monday, 5 August 2013

## Will Ibrahim Bah show up in court today?

### -CARL's Director questions

By Poindexter Sama

The Executive Director for the Centre for Accountability and the Rule of Law (CARL), Ibrahim Tommy, has expressed "genuine fear" on the possibility of Ibrahim Bah being in the country, and whether he would show up in court today. Bah is to answer to allegations of crimes against humanity, which he is said to have committed during the civil war.

The accused is standing trial at Pademba Road Magistrate Court no. 1, on a private criminal prosecution on war crimes, which is funded by the CARL and a Swiss-based human rights organisation to ensure that justice is seen to be done regarding his involvement in war crimes committed on the shores of Sierra Leone.

However, Ibrahim Tommy said in a Press Conference at his Upper Brook Street office, that

when the matter came up for hearing on Monday 29th July, 2013, the accused, Ibrahim Bah, did not show up in court on the excuse proffered by his lawyer that he (Ibrahim Bah) is not aware of a matter against him in court.

Based on such excuse, Tommy Ibrahim said, there is a fear that Ibrahim Bah might have even left the shores of Sierra Leone, and possibly may not show up on the adjourned date which is today, 5th August, 2013.

The CARL Director said

that the matter against Ibrahim Bah was championed by them as a private criminal matter, based on the fact that when the government was previewed on the need to prosecute Ibrahim Bah on crimes against humanity, it expressed concern on the lack of resources to handle the matter.

Therefore, they as human rights organizations decided to fund the venture to ensure that impunity of whatever sort, does not prevail.

# RUF'S IBRAHIM BA ON THE RUN?

The Executive Director of Center for Accountability and Rule of Law (CARL), Ibrahim Tommy, has expressed fear that erstwhile RUF lynchpin, Senegalese national, Ibrahim Ba, has fled the country despite facing a lawsuit brought by a war victim from Kono.

Mr. Tommy who was addressing journalists past Friday He said following revelations that the RUF strongman had been living in the country since 2008, CARL in partnership with a Swiss-based agency, urged the

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## RUF'S IBRAHIM BA ON THE RUN?

From Front Page

government to examine whether he could be investigated for crimes he allegedly perpetrated against Sierra Leoneans.

He said their concern was based on several reports including the Mid Term Report on Liberia and the UN Security Council Report on the "notorious" activities of Ibrahim Ba and the threat he posed after saying he had enough resources to destabilize the region.

He said it was as a result of this that they urged the Inspector General of Police to investigate Ba, although pointing out that the lack of resources to undertake such a venture and question marks on his identity, according to police, frustrated their efforts. Mr Tommy furthered that when a victim in Kono approached them for help in bringing up charges against Ibrahim Ba, they hired the services of a lawyer who filed a private lawsuit on 5th June this year.

According to him, police at the time assured them that he (Ba) was under house arrest at his Aberdeen residence and should be reporting to the Trans-International Organized Crime Unit at Murray Town.

He disclosed that when they went to his residence to serve him the court summon, they were surprised to realize that there was no indication whatsoever that he was under house arrest.

"On 18th July 2013, the Court Clerk told us the matter would come up for hearing but nothing happened. On Monday 29th July 2013, the matter eventually came up at Magistrate Court No. 1 where a lawyer representing Ba said he was not around," Tommy explained.

The matter, according to him, was later adjourned for today, 5th August 2013. He said he had fears Ba may have fled the country as they had already done their investigations by visiting his residence where they had no trace of him.

Mr. Tommy however said Ba's lawyer allayed their fears by assuring them that he was still in the country.

Among the charges brought against the former RUF strongman are: conspiracy, false imprisonment, threat to kill, rape and other crimes related to human rights abuses.

## UN Workshop Highlights Plight Of Men & Boys As Victims Of Sexual Violence In Conflict



**SRSG on Sexual Violence in Conflict Zainab Bangura**

**Office of the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) on Sexual Violence in Conflict Zainab Hawa Bangura:**

**Press Release – For Immediate Release**

**UN Workshop Highlights Plight of Men and Boys as Victims of Sexual Violence in Conflict**

**Date: 29 July 2013**

New York – Shame, stigma, devastating health repercussions, criminalization, decreased livelihood opportunities and a lack of services were just a few of the challenges identified during a two-day workshop on combatting conflict-related sexual violence against men and boys.

Representatives of UN agencies and civil society organizations joined legal experts, medical practitioners, researchers and survivors from around the world to discuss what could be done to address the issue of men and boys who are victims of sexual violence in conflict. The workshop identified several issues that require immediate attention in order to combat this problem, including: addressing inadequacies in legal frameworks that ignore or criminalize male victims and allow perpetrators

to enjoy impunity; addressing gaps in research to foster a better understanding of the causes, consequences and scope of male-directed sexual violence; and addressing shortcomings in the programmatic response to sexual violence against men and boys to ensure they have access to medical and psychosocial services that take into account their needs and offer survivor-centred assistance.

The Office of UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the United States Mission to the United Nations co-hosted the meeting, and in opening remarks the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Zainab Hawa Bangura, said that, “The crippling repercussions of rape in war are devastating for women, but our sons and brothers who are victims also suffer in silence. They too experience health complications related to sexual violence in conflict such as physical injuries, sexually transmitted diseases and psychological stress and trauma.”

A survivor of sexual violence from Bosnia told workshop participants that there was a dire need for tailored responses for men and boys who were victims of conflict-related sexual violence, and that their voices needed to be heard and their experiences acknowledged.

The phenomenon of men and boys sexually assaulted during conflict is not new. In fact, research shows that male-directed sexual violence has taken place in more than 25 countries in the last few decades and a recent survey in Eastern DRC found that 15 percent of male respondents had been victims of sexual violence in conflict. The most recent Secretary-General’s report on Sexual Violence in Conflict also noted that, “More monitoring and information regarding male victims and the types of sexual violence perpetrated against them is required to tailor prevention initiatives, sensitization campaigns, treatment protocols and services for survivors.”

The outcome of the conference will be a report that outlines the most pressing needs in the area of sexual violence in conflict against men and boys and how various stakeholders can best address them.

Ambassador Stephen Rapp, United States Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues in the Office of Global Criminal Justice, delivered the conference keynote address, and UN Assistant Secretary General for the Department of

Safety and Security, Mbaranga Gasarabwe, also addressed workshop participants at the opening session. Ambassador Rosemary DiCarlo, acting interim United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations, spoke about the importance of addressing this problem as a peace and security matter as well as a public health issue.

Conference participants came from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, New Zealand, Switzerland, Uganda, the United Kingdom, and the United States. UN staff members from UNHCR, UNFPA, DPKO, UNDP, OHCHR, UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Office of the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict were also in attendance.

Ms. Bangura concluded the conference by saying, "Acts of sexual violence leave visible and invisible scars that have long lasting and devastating repercussions. Therefore, we must address sexual violence in conflict in all its manifestations and stamp it out in every corner of the globe, stand up for whomever is affected by it and go after anyone who commits it."

## Human Rights Watch

Monday, 5 August 2013

Press Release

### **Alleged Sierra Leone Rebel Arms Supplier in Court**

Questions and Answers on Ibrahim Bah, Former Charles Taylor Associate

(Nairobi, August 5, 2013) – The alleged rebel arms supplier Ibrahim Bah is scheduled to make an initial appearance in a Sierra Leone criminal court on August 5, 2013, for alleged crimes committed in the diamond-rich Kono district of eastern Sierra Leone in 2000. A private citizen is charging Bah with kidnapping, assault, threatening to kill, and false imprisonment, among other charges.

Human Rights Watch today issued a question and answer document on issues relating to the Bah case.

Bah was believed to be living in Burkina Faso, but a United Nations panel of experts report in May 2013 found that he was living in Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone.

Human Rights Watch and local civil society groups have called for the Sierra Leone government to open a criminal investigation of Bah for his alleged role in supporting the rebel Revolutionary United Front. The rebel group was responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity during Sierra Leone's civil war, from 1991 to 2002.

The government has yet to act, but on July 5, 2013, a Sierra Leone citizen from the eastern district of Kono initiated a private criminal prosecution. Such private prosecutions are permitted under Sierra Leonean law when the government has not brought a criminal case.

“Ibrahim Bah is implicated in fueling horrific crimes by Sierra Leone rebel forces during the country's civil conflict,” said Elise Keppler, associate international justice director at Human Rights Watch. “The Sierra Leone government should show it is committed to justice for the victims by making sure there is a criminal investigation for the full range of Bah's alleged abuses.”

# Human Rights Watch

Monday, 5 August 2013

## Sierra Leone: Questions and Answers on Ibrahim Bah

### 1. Who is Ibrahim Bah?

Ibrahim Bah is a Senegalese national living in Sierra Leone. During the Sierra Leone civil war, from 1991 to 2002, Bah allegedly provided arms and materiel to the rebel Revolutionary United Front (RUF), according to a United Nations panel of experts and the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone. During the conflict, the RUF committed widespread and systematic abuses, including murder, mutilation, amputation, torture, rape, and forced abductions.

Bah has been under a UN-imposed travel ban since 2004 for his alleged role in illegal arms and diamond dealing and for supporting the former Liberian President Charles Taylor's effort to destabilize Sierra Leone.

Although Bah was not prosecuted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone, testimony was given in the case of Prosecutor vs. Charles Taylor on Bah's involvement in the conflict. The court found that Bah was a close associate of Taylor, who was convicted by the court in 2012 for his role in providing arms and other assistance to the rebels. The decision states that: "Bah was a trusted emissary who represented the RUF at times and the Accused at times, and served as a liaison between them at times. He was a businessman who helped arrange arms and diamond transactions, and did not maintain an ongoing affiliation as a subordinate or agent with either the RUF or the Accused."

Bah was believed to be living in Burkina Faso, but a report issued by the UN panel of experts on May 31, 2013, found that he had been living in Sierra Leone since 2008.

### 2. What is the criminal prosecution against Bah?

On July 5, a Sierra Leonean citizen from the diamond-rich Kono district of eastern Sierra Leone filed a private criminal prosecution against Bah for the following offenses under Sierra Leonean law: conspiracy, false imprisonment, kidnapping, wounding and wounding with intent, assault occasioning actual bodily harm, and threatening to kill.

In Sierra Leone, a criminal case may be brought by a private citizen instead of the state. In such cases, it is generally the responsibility of the complainant to gather the relevant evidence and present it to the court.

The state may also assist in the case by investigating the issues or gathering relevant evidence. It may also take over the prosecution if it determines that the case involves an issue best handled by the government. Alternatively, the state may determine that the case should not proceed and terminate the prosecution, discharging the case.

### 3. What are the next steps?

Bah was served with information on the case on July 15. The next step should be an appearance by the defendant in court for the charges to be read to him and for him to enter a plea.

An appearance is typically scheduled within several days of when a defendant is served. July 18 was initially scheduled as the day when the appearance was expected to take place, following the case's assignment to a judge. However, no developments occurred on that day. On July 29, the matter was raised in court and a lawyer for Bah said that Bah had not been aware of any proceedings to move the case forward and requested an adjournment. The complainant and the defendant agreed to adjourn until August 5, when Bah is now scheduled to make his initial appearance.

#### **4. Why didn't the prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone indict Bah?**

The Sierra Leone government and the United Nations established the Special Court for Sierra Leone to prosecute those "bearing the greatest responsibility" for crimes committed during Sierra Leone's conflict. The court has completed trials of nine people associated with Sierra Leone's three main warring factions, including Taylor.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone is winding down operations, although the court's prosecutor is not prevented from bringing a case against Bah. Human Rights Watch has urged the Sierra Leone authorities to prosecute, through the regular courts, those allegedly responsible for serious crimes committed during the conflict whom the Special Court has not tried. This would ensure wider accountability for the crimes.

#### **5. Why hasn't the Sierra Leone government taken action against Bah?**

Human Rights Watch and others have urged the Sierra Leone government to open a criminal investigation of Bah for his alleged role in crimes committed during Sierra Leone's conflict. It is unclear why the Sierra Leone government has not done so.

A number of possible criminal offenses could be brought under Sierra Leone domestic law. However, the country's law does not include some serious crimes that violate international law, such as crimes against humanity. Sierra Leone should adopt laws incorporating these crimes.

Here is the City  
Monday, 5 August 2013

**11 things that happened this day in history - 5th August**

-SNIP-

11. 2010 - Model Naomi Campbell confirms former President of Liberia Charles Taylor gave her diamonds she described as 'dirty looking stones'

## Providence Journal

Sunday, 4 August 2013

### **Philip Marcelo: A decade after nightmare's end, reporter to see what's changed in Liberia**

By Philip Marcelo

Philip Marcelo PROVIDENCE — When then-U.S. Sen. Lincoln Chafee landed in Liberia in 2005, he received a surprising welcome from the driver sent by the U.S. Embassy.

“This is where Mad Max meets the post-apocalypse,” the now-Rhode Island governor recalled the man saying. “That was the description.”

It was October, and Chafee, in his first and only visit, had been invited to serve as an observer for the West African nation's first free and fair presidential election since the 2003 end of 14 years of near-uninterrupted conflict.

Accompanying him were former President Jimmy Carter, his wife, Rosalynn, and the late U.S. Rep. Donald Payne, D-N.J.

As the envoy made his way into Monrovia, the country's capital and largest city, Chafee found the driver's description rang true.

“There was no electricity,” he said. “You'd see poles. But there were no wires on them. Everything of value had been scavenged.”

Of the places he's traveled, Chafee said, Liberia, at that time, was the worst he had seen. “This was the most challenging. No question. This was years of destruction.”

Nearly eight years after that visit, I have traveled to Liberia to spend two weeks reporting on how the nation has recovered from years of bloody conflict, which ended 10 years ago this month.

Two civil wars spanning 1989 to 2003 killed an estimated 250,000 Liberians and displaced about a million more. The country's roads, power grid and other basic infrastructure were destroyed.

I'll focus on how the families of Rhode Island Liberians are being affected, or are trying to make a difference.

My goal is to produce a series for The Journal in September, with regular online reports during and after the trip at [www.providencejournal.com](http://www.providencejournal.com).

The trip is made possible by a fellowship from the International Center for Journalists in Washington, D.C.

Before I left, I met with the governor at the State House and asked him what I should expect to find when I land.

“I'd assume it's gotten much better,” Chafee said. “The basics, at least. Electricity. Schools up and running. All of West Africa, it seems, is picking up. The cities are teeming.”

U.S. Rep. David N. Cicilline, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, also suggests there are reasons for optimism in Liberia, a country of 3.5 million people on Africa's Atlantic coast, roughly the size of Tennessee.

In May, Cicilline met with Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf when she visited Washington, D.C.

She pointed out that the Liberian economy averaged 6.5-percent growth over the past four years, despite the global recession.

Sirleaf also talked about recent oil discoveries in the country and the importance of American corporate investment to develop them, he said.

"She's really been a strong reformer and someone who is really committed to weeding out corruption in her government," Cicilline said. "She's really made some tremendous strides in increasing transparency."

All the same, I'm realistic about what the pace of progress might look like.

Liberia remains one of the world's poorest countries. Unemployment is high; fewer than 40 percent of those over the age of 15 can read and write. The country still lacks a substantive electrical grid.

Augustine N. Myers, a journalist in Liberia, says efforts to improve water and sanitation, in particular, have been painfully fragmented. Less than 10 percent of residents in Monrovia have access to clean water.

But other areas show more progress:

How women, for example, who suffered tremendously during the war years, are being treated today.

How a generation of youths raised entirely during conflict have been reintegrated into society.

In my reporting, I'll be exploring how Rhode Islanders are helping in those areas.

They include former Rhode Island residents Fungbeh and Neyor Karmue, who converted their family's home into an orphanage and school that houses 44 children in the war-torn city of Gbarnga. They call it Christ Children's Home.

They also include Esther Dahn, who heads the Liberian Concern Women Development Association, a nonprofit organization focused on helping women in rural Liberia.

She is trying to raise awareness about the country's continuing problems with child rape. Rhode Island Liberians, moved by a recent visit Dahn made, are now raising money and collecting supplies to support the organization.

The Ocean State hosts one of the largest concentrations of Liberians in the United States, nearly 15,000 in 2011.

Among them at one time were the wife and family of former Liberian President **Charles Taylor**, the notorious warlord at the center of that nation's strife.

Taylor, who had fled Liberia after being accused of embezzling from the government, was arrested in the United States in 1985 and held in the county jail in Plymouth, Mass. He somehow obtained a hacksaw and managed to escape and return to Africa, where he raised an army and eventually overthrew the Liberian president.

He ruled Liberia from 1997 to 2003 before being tried and convicted by a United Nations-backed court for war crimes and crimes against humanity for his role in neighboring Sierra Leone's civil war.

Sending units of often drugged child soldiers into battle, Taylor set a tragic precedent for future African conflicts. He also left a lost generation of Liberian youths in his wake.

"That was the thing about Taylor," William H. Twaddell, a Providence resident who headed the U.S. Embassy in Liberia from 1992-1995, said recently. "He really shattered the fabric of that country by getting these kids to do what was beyond the imaginable."

Taylor's legacy undoubtedly casts a long shadow over Liberia's recent history.

What defines the country's next chapter — and how Rhode Island Liberians fit in that picture — remains to be seen.

## Special Tribunal for Lebanon

Friday, 2 August 2013

Press Release

### **Pre-Trial Judge Sets Tentative Date for Start of Trial**

Leidschendam, 02 August 2013 – The Pre-Trial Judge at the Special Tribunal for Lebanon today issued an order setting 13 January 2014 as a new tentative date for the start of the trial in the Ayyash et al. case.

The rules of the Tribunal require the Pre-Trial Judge, Daniel Fransen, to set a tentative date for the trial, which could change based on judicial developments.

The next phase requires the Pre-Trial Judge to refer the case to the Trial Chamber judges, who set the final date for the trial.

Earlier this year, the Pre-Trial Judge postponed the tentative trial date concluding that the parties were not ready for trial due to a number of reasons including lack of adequate time for disclosure of material to the defence counsel. He indicated in his decision that most of these issues have since been addressed and a new provisional date for the trial can now be set.

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PRWeb

Monday, 5 August 2013

**Author John F. Dobbyn Reveals the Story Behind The Diamond Myth**

-SNIP-

I have scarcely scratched the surface, and that is the so-called “legitimate” origin of gem diamonds. Consider what are now called “blood” or “conflict” diamonds that have been flowing into the stream of commercial gem diamonds since at least the early nineties. In Sierra Leone, for example, the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), after being trained in the art of inhumanity in Liberia, has used terroristic methods against the peaceful villagers that I will not begin to describe to spare you the nightmares my research gave me. In brief, children as young as eight years old were captured, filled with drugs, and made to commit murders with AK-47s, sometimes of their own family. Why? To forge a juvenile army, driven beyond conscience by drugs, and armed to the teeth with automatic weaponry, to seize control of the Sierra Leone diamond pits. The stolen diamonds were smuggled across the easy border of Liberia to be sold for more drugs and weapons. And the beat went on.

The RUF declared a truce in 2002, but has the capture and smuggling of diamonds ceased? Nobody so claims. The profits are too great at every level of the commerce.

So when you and I buy a sparkling, pristine diamond to adorn the wrist or neck of the one we love, and we pay a price that is as mythical as the “diamonds are forever” mystique DeBeers has created, unfortunately the luster of the gem would be dimmed by the blooded reality behind the slogan - if we only knew.

-SNIP-